

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-13, 15 and 16 are presently active in this case, Claims 1 and 14 having been cancelled, and Claims 2 and 15 having been amended by the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2-13, 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,036,231 by Kanbara; and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,036,231 by Kanbara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,453,949 Wiedmann et al.

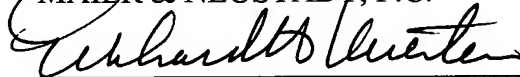
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claim 2-13, 15 and 16 include allowable subject matter. To expedite issuance of a patent, in light of this indication, Claims 1 and 14 have been cancelled. Claim 2 and 15 have been amended to be in independent form, with the exception, in Claim 2, of specifying that the sense amplifier circuit is configured “for performing current amplification of a memory cell selected during data reading”.

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Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

Consequently, in light of the amendments to the claims of the present amendment, no further issues are outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)